Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1782 - October 7 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1782 with a release date of Friday, October 7th, 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC unveils some new sky-high plans for emergencies; Missouri hams called out when a communications cable is cut; the ARRL breiefs the White House about the work of hams in emergency communications and keep your eyes on the sky for two more de-orbiting birds. Find out which ones on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1782 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: FCC STUDY ON FUTURE QUICK DEPLOYMENT EMCOMM RELEASED

The Federal Communications Commission is looking at ways to take emergency communications to new heights. In this case we mean altitude above mean sea level. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the details:

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The FCC has released a study detailing some possible steps to insure reliable communications for first responders in times of natural or man-made disaster or any form of communications crisis.

Technologies mentioned include small unmanned aerial vehicles that fly to an altitude of 500 feet and support a single frequency band for cellular services.

Also being looked at are weather balloons acting as repeaters to carry multiple frequencies longer distances, high-altitude, long-distance unmanned vehicles providing a greater payload at specific locations and suitcase systems placed on low-flying aircraft to be used as repeaters.

The release outlines a few specifics on the potential uses of Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture or DACA. The DACA could be deployed within 12 to 18 hours following a disaster. Its minimum goal would be to restore necessary lines of communication for a period of 72 to 96 hours.

The release says that the system would restore cellular services for wireless priority service, Government Emergency Telecommunications Services, and 911 as well as public safety communications.

The paper notes the required cooperation of FEMA, the FAA and federal, state and local authorities on the coordination of spectrum usage and prevention of interference to and from a Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture system.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm, Norm Seeley, KI7UP, watching the

developments in this emerging technology from Scottsdale, Arizona.

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A link to the FCC overview page that contains further links is at tinyurl.com/FCC-DACA (FCC, RW)

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RESCUE: CUT TELECOM CABLE ACTIVATES ARES IN BENTON COUNTY MISSOURI

According to news reports, the Benton County Missouri Amateur Radio Emergency Services was called in to provide communications support early in September. This, after a cut telecommunications cable isolated the Johnson County 911 Center in the town of Warrensburg.

The Benton County hams worked with their counterparts in Johnson County quickly establishing reliable communications so that 911 calls could be handed off to Warrensburg officials for dispatch. About 15 calls were transferred and the amateur radio operators handled. At least one was of life-critical situation.

Radio amateurs remained on duty at their respective centers, until the local telephone company fixed the cable problem at 9:30 AM the next day, said Johnson County Emergency Management Director Gloria Michalski, who referred to the operators as "awesome."

The Benton County ARES group is made up of 14 active volunteers. Hey all donate their time, use their personal equipment and pay their own expenses to serve where needed. They often coordinate their efforts with the Emergency Management Center in Warsaw, Missouri. Yiu can read the entire story of this ham radio emergency response at tinyurl.com/missouri-ares-response. (W6RH, Benton County Enterprise)

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ARRL BRIEFS WHITE HOUSE STAFF ON AMATEUR RADIO'S CAPABILITIES DURING EMERGENCIES

The ARRL has gone to Washington, once again. This time at the invitation of White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS.

On September 12th, the ARRL briefed several members of the National Security Staff on the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service to communicate in emergencies. According to Schmidt, the White House is looking for ways that the work of Amateur Radio operators can continue to support emergencies in the future with particular attention to increased use and dependency on Internet-based technologies.

The ARRL presentation was conducted by Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC along with President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. It focused on Amateur Radio's current and evolving capabilities to provide Internet messaging connectivity. (ARRL)

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WORLDBEAT: NETHERLANDS BECOMES PRO-ACCTIVE TO STOP NON CERTIFIED TRANSMITTERS FROM ENTERING THAT NATION

The Netherlands will soon be a rather unfriendly place for those wanting to bring non-certified radio transmitting gear into that nation.

According to Media Network, the Dutch Radiocommunications and the Dutch Customs Agencies have pledged to cooperate in tackling the trade of illegal broadcasting equipment in Europe. The goal of this collaboration is to stop at the border the import of transmitters that do not comply with European regulations.

Through cooperation with Customs the plan is to prevent these transmitters entering the Netherlands, or being marketed and used elsewhere in Europe. Once in Europe, there is freedom of movement of goods between European Union member states, so other countries are also working intensively with their respective customs authorities.

There is also a close watch on devices being sold on the Internet. The Dutch Radiocommunications Agency says that it is working with eBay and the nations domestic site Marktplaats to counter the trade of what it terms as hazardous transmitters. It also is cooperating with the supervisory authorities of other European Union member states, the United States and Canada in this area.

The agency says that this proactive approach is more effective than enforcement actions against retailers later when the transmitting devices already for sale. (Media Network, RadioMagazine.nl)

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WORLDBEAT: GREECE'S NATIONAL SOCIETY GETS 5 MHZ PERMIT

The Greek Ministry of Communication has given authorization to the headquarters club station of the Greek national amateur radio society for use a single frequency in the 60 meter band. SZ1SV is being permitted to operate on 5398.5 kHz using SSB, CW and Digital with a maximum power of 100W PEP. The national society says that it hopes to have a beacon on this frequency soon.

The latest 60 meter amateur radio information world-wide can be found on-line in the 5 MHz Newsletters. Its in cyberspace at tinyurl.com/6fkhcmf (G4MWO, Southgate)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W3BN repeater of the Reading Amateur Radio Club serving Reading Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: $15000 NAL REDUCED TO $450 FOR NEW ORLEANS AREA CB OPRERATOR

A New Orleans area CB operator has had a proposed $15,000 fine reduced to $450. This after appealing the initial Notice of Apparent Liability back to the FCC. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with more:

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Last June 7th the FCC Enforcement Bureau's New Orleans Office issued the $15,000 Notice of Apparent Liability to one John Hays of Bourg, Louisiana..this for allegedly operating his Citizens Band transmitter without the requisite Commission authorization.

As discussed in detail in the NAL, the proposed fine was issued after it was determined that despite verbal and written warnings by agents of the New Orleans Office, Hays continued the unlicensed and overpowered operation of a CB transmitter attached to a linear amplifier from his place of residence.

In his response, Hays acknowledged to the FCC that this was a very serious matter and he had not taken it lightly. He also stated he had made the changes to his station to bring it into compliance with the Commission's rules.

At the same time Hays requested cancellation or reduction of the proposed forfeiture because he lives solely on social security benefits and as a result he could not afford to pay the proposed $15,000 fine. He also supplied the FCC with the required documentation to show that it would be a severe hardship to pay the full amount.

After reviewing Hays appeal, the FCC concluded that the forfeiture should be reduced to $450. This, it said, was an amount within the range determined by the regulatory agency to be affordable by Hays. And as the fictional Captain Luc Piccard of Star Trek - The Next Generation might say in a situation such as this, the FCC made it so.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, way out West in Los Angeles.

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As you likely have guessed, Hays was given the customary 30 days to pay the now very much reduced fine. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: TEN INDONESIAN BROADCASTERS ORDERED OFF THE AIR DUE TO INTERFERENCE TO AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATIONS

Several non-government radio stations have been shut down in Indonesia. This due to safety concerns at two major airports. Amateur radio Newsline's Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the details:

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Indonesia's Communications and Information Ministry, through the Batam office of the Satellite Orbit and Radio Frequency Monitoring Agency has banned 10 licensed private radio stations in the city of Batam. This, for impacting on flight safety at Changi Airport in Singapore and Hang Nadim Airport in Batam.

Agency head Muhammad Sopingi told The Jakarta Post that the ministry's Directorate General of Post and Telecommunications had received letters of complaint in June from the Singapore and Hang Nadim Airport flight authorities about a radio communication interruption between pilots and air traffic controllers. This was found to be caused by what the regulatory agency called the frequency synchronization problems caused by the radio stations in Batam. During takeoffs and landings, pilots often heard songs aired from radio stations rather than air traffic guidance from from controllers and making for a dangerous situation to life and property.

Sopingi told the newspaper that a study is being conducting on whether it is feasible for any or all of the stations to return to the air after the technical difficulties have been worked out.

I'm Jim Damdon, N8TMW, reporting.

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According to Media Network, some 200 employees of the 10 stations have already lost their jobs as a result of the closures. (Media Network)

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RESCUE RADIO: STORM ALERT XTREME TRAINING CLASS NOV. 12 IN BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA

If you are a ham radio operator in Alabama and involved in emergency communications, listen up. The annual ABC 33/40 storm spotter training known as Storm Alert Xtreme, is coming to the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center on Saturday November 12th.

Brian Peters, WD4EPR, who has qualified over 6,000 Alabama storm spotters during his days with the National Weather Service, will be doing the instruction. All existing Skywatchers are asked to attend for their annual "re training", and anyone that wants to join the team needs to be there as well.

This severe weather training event is free, and there is no need to pre-register. Planners think that because of the massive tornado outbreak last April 27th that they may easily top their record turnout of last year.

Also, those who do attend will be given free entrance into the Alabama International Auto Show after the training at the same venue. The planners of Storm Alert Xtreme say that this is being made possible thanks to the Birmingham Automobile Dealers Association.

Again, the date for this free severe weather training class for residents of Alabama is Saturday, November 12th, at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. Planners say that they hope to see you there. (WO4W via Facebook)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: CQ ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PLAQUES FOR CQ DX MARATHON

An expansion in the number of the CQ Magazine-sponsored DX Marathon plaques to be awarded each year has been made public by that publication. Starting with the announcement of the 2011 Marathon results in the June 2012 issue, additional plaques will be awarded for top CW and top SSB scores, top single band scores, and top continental scores.

The CQ DX Marathon is a year-long activity encouraging DXing on the HF bands. Competition begins anew each January 1st. Details are available on the CQ magazine website at www.cq amateur-radio.com and on the DX Marathon at www.dxmarathon.com.

Also, an additional sponsor for top Digital Mode score is still being sought. Please contact DX Marathon Administrator John Sweeney, K9EL, via e-mail to k9el (at) dxmarathon (dot) com if you wish to sponsor this plaque. (CQ)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: 2011 CQWW DX CONTEST WEBINAR OCTOBER 9

The Potomac Valley Radio Club will once again host an online webinar with the CQ World Wide DX Contest committee. This year's event is on Sunday, October 9th at 19:00 UTC and free and open to the entire contest community.

Taking part in this years webinar will be CQ World Wide DX Contest Director Bob Cox K3EST along with committee members John Dorr, K1AR and Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q. The three will provide an update on the 2011 CQ World Wide SSB and CW DX contests. A question and answer session will follow their presentation.

To register for this event please take your web browser to tinyurl.com/CQDX-2011-Webinar and fill out the on-line form. A link to the registration form is also available at www.pvrc.org. (K4ZW via QRZ.com)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: ECWARC - AMBASSADORS OF CW

The United Kingdom's Essex CW Amateur Radio Club continues to try and

connect with more members via local clubs. To this end Essex is looking to appoint so-called Ambassadors for the CW mode to as many clubs as possible to disseminate and gather news of interest to Morse operators.

The Essex CW Amateur Radio Club describes itself as a group for anyone with a passion for Morse Code. Although the founders were from Essex in Great Britain, members are welcome from anywhere in the United Kingdom and world-wide. More information is at the club website at www.essexcw.org.uk. You can also follow this group on Twitter with the I.D. of @ecwarc (RSGB, Southgate)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: NEWSLINE AT PACIFICON - A HAM RADIO TOWN MEETING

And less we forget to mention, on Saturday, October 15th Amateur Radio Newsline will be hosting another of its popular Amateur Radio Town Meetings. This one is titled "A Peak Into the Future: Amateur Radio in the Year 2111." Scheduled guests include Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor K1JT, IARU Secretary Rod Stafford W6ROD, ARRL Washington attorney Chris Imlay W3KD and communications planner Dave Witkowski W6DTW. The session will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Pacific time in Meeting Room D and E at the Marriott Santa Clara Hotel in Santa Clara, California. We hope to see you there. More is on-line at pacificon.org. (ARNewsline)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: RALPH HOGAN ELECTED NEW SBE PRESIDENT

Some names in the news. The Society of Broadcast Engineers has inducted new officers and honored its founder and first member John Battison. This, during the national membership meeting on Wednesday, September 28th in Columbus, Ohio.

SBE General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, swore in Ralph Hogan as the organization's new president. Hogan replaces outgoing president Vinny Lopez who has served in that position the past two years.

The Society of Broadcast Engineers or SBE is a professional organization for engineers in broadcast radio and television. It also offers certification in various radio frequency and audio technology areas for its members.

Next year's SBE national meeting will be in Denver, Colorado. (RW, others)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: KI4DS ANNOUNCES NEW D-STAR NET FOR YOUNG HAMS

Nine year old Mikaila Williams, KI4DS, of Deltona, Florida, has announced the start-up of a new D-Star net for youngsters. The gathering, called the Kids in Amateur Radio Net will take place every Friday night at 9 P.M. Eastern time on D-Star Reflector 12C. The host organization is the California-based Pocket Autopatch Association

better known as the Papa System.

Mikaila says that discussions on the net will be mainly about getting youth interested in amateur radio and getting them licensed. According to Mikaila, those young hams that do not have D-Star access will be able to check in via email to KI4DS (at) KidsInAmareurRaido (dot) net. She adds that the net will also be available to SWL's and others on Radioreference.com.

Her first net was to be held on October 7th and will be weekly thereafter. (KI4DS via e-mail)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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REPEATER NEWS: VA3XPR - THE NEW VOICE OF DOWNTOWN TORONTO CANADA

Since repeaters tend to come and go, we do not usually report on their birth or demise unless they represent something special. And in the case of a new system in Canada, one could say that its license holder is pioneering a new aspect in ham radio relay communications.

On September 25th, a new voice with the call VA3XPR was added to the Amateur Radio community of downtown Toronto, Canada. What sets this repeater apart from others in the greater Toronto area is its unique purpose that might be best described a very local coverage system. While most system owners tend to find the highest spot and cover as many miles as is possible, Don Trynor, VA3HFT, decided to create a system with three simple objectives in mind. According to Trynor's posting on QRZ.com, these are to create a sense of community and promote diversity within the St. James Town and adjacent neighborhoods of Toronto; to act as a catalyst for education and learning promoting the growth of amateur radio; and to provide an alternate means of communications in the event of an emergency or natural disaster in the downtown Toronto area.

If you live in or near Toronto or are passing through, the VA3XPR repeater can be accessed on 441.950 with a positive offset and with a PL tone of 100.0 Hz. In addition to its excellent coverage area, it also provides its users with access to IRLP and Echolink for global communications. For more information on the VA3XPR repeater, please visit www.qrz.com/db/va3xpr (VA3XFT, QRZ.com)

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RADIO IN SPACE: ROSAT EXPECTED TO FALL FROM THE SKY IN NOVEMBER

The next major bird to fall from orbit will likely be the Roentgen X-Ray Observation Satellite better known by the acronym ROSAT.

At the start of its mission, ROSAT was in an elliptical orbit at distances of between 585 and 565 kilometres above the surface of the Earth. Since then, atmospheric drag has caused the satellite to lose altitude. Last June it was at a distance of only about 327 kilometres above the ground.

As was the case with UARS, The time and location of re-entry of ROSAT cannot be predicted precisely. Right now scientists and astronomers expect the X-ray satellite to re enter in early November. At present, this date can only be calculated to within plus or minus five weeks. This time slot of uncertainty will be reduced as the date of re-entry approaches. However, even one day before re-entry, the estimate will only be accurate to within plus/minus five hours.

ROSAT was an orbital X-Ray observatory making observations at that very high wavelength and radioing the data back to Earth. You can keep up with the latest information on its upcoming firey demise at tinyurl.com/another-falling-bird (KC6WFS, ROSAT Website)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT ISSUES ARRISAT-1 CHICKEN LITTLE CONTEST REMINDER

And not to be left out of the proverbial sky is falling arena, AMSAT says that it is still looking for entries in its latest Chicken Little Contest. This to calculate or guess when ARISSat-1 falls out of orbit.

According to AMSAT this is defined as the moment that the decaying orbit of ARISSat-1 it crosses an altitude of 78 kilometers. This is considered to be the point of no return back into space.

AMSAT has created three categories in its contest. First is a student category for Kindergarten through 8th grade. Next is a second student category for high school grades 9 through 12 while the third is for everyone else.

Submissions must contain the UTC date in the format of day, month, year, hours, minutes and seconds along with your personal contact information. Adults and individual students should include their name and amateur call sign, if they have the latter. Submissions are limited to one per person or group. The closest predictions in each category will be recognized for their achievement.

The ARISSat-1 Chicken Little Contest closes on October 15th at 23:59 UTC. Send your submissions by e-mail to chickenlittle (at) arissat1 (dot) org. (ANS)

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ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING ARMENIA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the independence of Armenia, amateur radio special event stations there have been authorized to use the special prefix E-K-20. A special award is being offered to those working at least 20 QSO's or making 20 SWL loggings of these special event stations on allof whom will be operating on the various High Frequency bands including 30, 17 and 12 meters. Modes in used will be CW, SSB and Digital. QSLs for these special prefixes may be sent to: P.O.Box 22, Yerevan, Armenia 0002, or as directed on the air. An electronic version that you can print at home is available by sending a log extract of the contacts or reception reports to ek7dx (at) yahoo (dot) com. (Southgate)

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DX

In down to Earth DX news, DL3OCH will be active as 5N7Q from Abuja, Nigeria, through October 15th. His operation will be on 40 through 10 meters using one of the largest fully rotatable short wave broadcast antennas in the world. It has a gain of over 20 dbi on all bands. Modes are CW and SSB. QSL via DF8DX.

Members of the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club in cooperation with the Qatar Amateur Radio Society will be operational as A71DLH between October 22nd to the 29th. Their activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and the Digi modes. QSLs via the DARC Bureau or their QSL Manager DL0LH.

W5JON will again be operating as V47JA from his vacation home located at Calypso Bay on St. Kitts, in the West Indies. This from October 10th until November 5th. John's His QTH is 300 feet from the Caribbean Sea in Grid: FK87. Activity will be on 80 through 6 meters including 60 meters running SSB only. Also listen out for him during the CQ World Wide SSB contest on October 29th and 30th. QSL to W5JON either direct or electronically using Logbook of the World.

F4FOO will be active as 5V7MA from Togo between December 19th and January 4th. Operations will be limited to his free time on 20 through 10 meters on SSB only. QSL via his home callsign.

Lastly, with the addition of the Republic of South Sudan to the DXCC list, CQ magazine has also added that nation as a qualifying entity for the 2011 DX Marathon. An updated score sheet dated 2011.4 and updated CQ Country Lists are now available on the DX Marathon web site at www.dxmarathon.com.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: NASA SWIFT SPACECRAFT SEES STAR EATING BLACK HOLE

And finally this week, astronomers say that a monster sized black hole shredded a sun-like star, producing a strangely long-lasting flash of gamma rays that probably won't be seen again in a million years. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, takes it from here:

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According Joshua Bloom of the University of California Berkeley, the inter-stellar happening was first seen on March 28th by NASA's Swift spacecraft, which is searching the universe for gamma ray bursts. This particular flash has lasted more than two months and is still going on as we go to air.

In a recent media interview, Bloom explained that this is definitely not the norm for gamma ray bursts. Those are energetic blasts that typically flare up and end in a matter of seconds even or milliseconds, and often the sign of the death throes of a collapsing star.

What makes this even stranger is that the black hole, located in the constellation Draco about 4 billion light years from Earth, was sitting quietly when a star about the mass of our Sun moved into range. Bloom noted that this was a black hole which was otherwise quiescent and suddenly had an impulsive feeding frenzy on this one star.

Thanks to the Swift spacecraft, data on this very rare space phenomenon which otherwise have gone un-noticed was discovered radioed back to Earth.

>From the newsroom in Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reporting

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Researcher Bloom figures this type of inter-stellar encounter may happen once per black hole every one million years. (Science OnLine)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline(at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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